

The programme for the forthcoming Victoria Regatta, to be held on Friday and Saturday, the 13th and 14th instants, has just been issued. By a comparison of the new programme with that of last year, it will be found that there are several fresh names on the list of Stewards and Committees, a few changes in the Judges and Umpires, and one or two novelties and also some changes in the events. The names of Commander Alleyne, R.N., Colonels Anderson and Foster and Captain R. Murray Ramsay, R.N., have been added to the list of Stewards. Mr. E. L. Woodin, who for years has fulfilled the duties of an Umpire of the rowing races, has retired, and Mr. H. J. E. Tripp, who has hitherto performed the duties of Judge, will now join Mr. A. P. MacKenzie as a Starter and Umpire, his place as Judge being taken by Mr. A. K. Travers. The Starters, Umpires and Judges for the sailing races remain the same as last year.

The number of events will be exactly the same as last year, seventeen rowing races, three sailing races and two yacht races. Instead, however, of there being nine rowing events on the second day, there will be nine on the first and eight on the second. This change is a sensible one, and will give a better opportunity for the order presentation of prizes on the second day. A new cup, named the 'Volunteer Cup,' has been presented by Captain J. J. Francis, and this will be competed for in the pair oars. Last year the pair-oared race was for the Ladies' Purse. The 6th Event will probably be the most novel row race ever witnessed at a Hongkong Regatta. Owing to the lack of interest which has of late years been shown in the races for Houseboats, this class of events has been restricted to one instead of two, and a mile race for sampans steered by Chinese women introduced. The prize offered, \$15, is sufficient to excite the cupidity of the average Chinese boatwoman, and if the matter is brought to their notice, there should be a large flotilla of Celestial craft.

The International Race for the 'Challenge Cup' will this year be rowed as the second race on the second day, instead of the third. This will, in all probability, suit the crews better, and accords to the race the importance which is due, but it will probably cause disappointment to a good many who would like to see it but who cannot from various reasons get off to the course soon enough. Four crews are training for the event, representing England, Scotland (the winner for the two preceding years), Ireland, and Germany. The 'Ladies' Purse,' the 6th race, is to be given for the double scull. The senior sculls has altogether dropped out. In another column will be found the complete programme. There seems every likelihood that the Regatta will be fully as successful and entertaining as before.

The Courier announces that the Kaiyong Colliery Station was opened for public traffic on the 23rd ult.

The N.-O. D. News believes there is a possibility of Mr. A. G. Giles, at present Her Majesty's Consul at Tamsui, being transferred to Amoy, where he was some time ago.

Mr. Tong King-sing was to leave Shanghai for Tientsin per *Haasen* on the 1st instant. The *News* says—He has left the accounts of the China Merchants Co., up to the date of his relinquishing the management, in the hands of the printers, and they are supposed to be very satisfactory.

Our experience being similar, we commend the following paragraph, taken from the N.-O. D. News of the 1st instant, to the attention of ship captains and officers:—A correspondent complains that his name did not appear in our passenger list. We cannot always give the names of the foreign passengers, because the officers on board who fill out our shipping reports either do not state further than that there were so many foreign passengers, or the names are written so indistinctly that we are unable to make out what they are.

It is interesting to read (says *Kuhlow's German Trade Review*) that the only European goods which Dr. Gutschke, who recently lectured before the Geographical Society at Berlin, found in the north of Corea were Isorian sewing needles and cheap German thread and matches. The Isorian goods are almost exclusively used.

The growing importance of German business relations with East Asia, and especially with Japan, is illustrated by the fact (says the same paper) that the heating and ventilation apparatus for the Imperial Palace at Tokio is being provided by a Berlin firm. This firm—Rietchel and Henneberg—supplied the same apparatus for the palace at Strasbourg.

The trouble connected with the collection of *lekin* in the Shanghai Settlements is not yet apparently over. The *Sinohwa Courier* of the 1st instant says:—The news we published on the 26th ultimo, that the Tung-li yamen had adopted the contention of the British Consul-General that *lekin* on opium is not legally leviable in the foreign settlements, had been contradicted by a telegram received yesterday by the Chinese officials. This message is to the effect that the Tung-li Yamen has instructed the Tao-tai 'that no exemption has been made with reference to the levying of *lekin* on opium within the Settlements, and that the *lekin* office will continue to collect the tax as before, until the new convention comes into force.' Upon the strength of this telegram we hear that the *lekin* runners will resume their work in the Settlement, and more seizures of opium may be expected. It is, however, stated that the British Consulate engaged in passing opinion through the Customs House for Chinese have held a meeting and unanimously decided to raise their charge from 1/3 to 1/5 per chest. It is their business to make any while the *lekin* office.

It appears (says the N.-O. D. News) that Tang Ching, ex-Governor of Yunnan, now lying in the Board of Punishments under sentence of decapitation after the Autumn Assize, is not likely to suffer death during the present year. It is during this year that the Empress-Regent has attained her fiftieth birthday, which alone renders the time 'auspicious.' Besides, this is the eleventh year of the reign of Kuang Hui, and we are informed that, for some unexplained reason, the eleventh and twelfth years of a sovereign's reign are also 'auspicious.' For this reason there will be no executions at the Capital, and consequently Tang Ching cannot possibly be beheaded until next year. We hope, therefore, that by that time the Empress-Regent will have become somewhat assuaged, and that she will be induced to spare the life of a man who is certainly entitled to rank among the most able and devoted adherents to the Throne.

This following curious 'Notification' (says the N.-O. D. News) is to be seen in the moon of some of the C. M. S. N. Co.'s steamers:—

NOTIFICATION.
The attention of Commanders of the Company's steamers is called to rule 93 of the book of Regulations by which Commissioners and Deputy Commissioners are to travel free. Free passages are not given to travelling on official duty; nor is it given to Consuls.
Free passes issued by the Company's agents are to be collected on board and handed in to the Office with the tickets. On these passes the agents should state clearly whether 'free passage' includes 'free table' or not, unless so stated it is to be understood that 'free table' is not included.
Passes issued by the Directors will provide a passage free in all respects, and the holder of these passes special attention should be given.
China Merchants' S. N. Co.,
Director's Office,
Shanghai, 21st October, 1885.

BRIEFLY summarized, the General Regulations for the force now in service in Burma are as follows:—The orders issued for the advance on Burma allow of the formation of depots, and the grant to women of 24 rations and to children of half rations, in addition to subsistence allowance. The officers are not allowed to take chargers. No grass-cutters are to be taken. Free rations will be allowed to all troops and followers on service (land officers will be allowed rations for themselves and their families, but the British Mountain batteries will be equipped with coolie transport in place of mules. Two Field Hospitals for British troops and four for native troops and followers will be formed, 100 beds for British, 200 for natives, and 100 for followers. These will be supplied by Bengal. A general hospital will be established at Tayetmye by Madras. The medical officers, medical subordinates, and attendants of the Army Hospital Corps will be provided equally with the British troops and native troops and general hospitals. Native troops and general followers will be allowed field batta, and public followers not engaged specially for service in Burma will be allowed 50 per cent. on pay extra. British and native troops and followers will be supplied with food, clothing and blankets. Fifty per cent. of the following will be provided with offensive weapons in the shape of *dags*, *kachars*, *hookas*, &c. The garrison batteries from Calcutta and Madras will take with them six 6.3" howitzers with 100 rounds each. The 14th Battery from Madras will take with it twelve 57" mortars with 100 rounds per mortar. Each corps will take 200 rounds per rifle in regimental charge, and 200 in ordnance charge. The artillery will take 500 rounds per gun; the usual proportion with the battery, and the remainder in ordnance charge.

'Taverna will out,' as the saying is. Every Englishman knows the story of the 14th Dragoons at Chillianwallah; how at a critical moment of the action, and without any cause that could at all account for such conduct, they suddenly wheeled about and galloped off the field, and how their commanding officer, Colonel King, a gentleman up to that moment credited with high courage and military ability, afterwards took his own life in the agony of shame and grief. The following letter appears in a recent issue of the *Statesman*:—

In your issue of the 3rd is a letter signed by 'O,' concerning the panic of the 14th Dragoons at Chillianwallah. A very much afraid that the story told by the 9th of the Regiment who was a ventriloquist and who uttered a grudge to Colonel King, is true. It is a well-known fact in the service that Colonel King never gave that order than you or I. As a fact, it was, I believe, known amongst some of the officers who were with him, and by whom Colonel King had a difference. Colonel King was greatly beloved by both officers and men of his own regiment, the 14th Hussars. After the action was over, Colonel King came to my father's tent, my father being the late Sir J. B. Ramsey, and in command of a brigade covering the rear of the army, and protecting the baggage and camp-followers which extended over three miles. When he entered the tent in great excitement, he exclaimed, 'Hearsey, I'm a ruined man. You know what has happened. I've been given the order "threw away" that you did. It was "who gave it, but no one would believe me if I made this statement." My father tried to soothe him, and advised and urged him to ask for a Court of Enquiry or demand a Court Martial, but to this he only replied, "What would be the good? I have no evidence to support what I state." I heard it, but, poor fellow, he is killed. I had hot words with him—I forget if Colonel King said yesterday—or the day before yesterday, which everyone knows, and if I made a statement, it would be put down to me. I thought, "My father tried to quiet him, but he could, and seriously recommended him to call for a Court of Enquiry. My father used to say that a brave or more honourable or more generous man than Colonel King never lived; but he could not face the stigma of cowardice, which he thought it would attach to his name. It is scarcely probable that, having made up his mind to take his own life, he would have come deliberately to a friend like my father, and have sworn that he never gave the order, and at the same time have mentioned the name of a man who did. I think it is to say that, as my father only mentioned the real culprit's name in our family circle, and as most of the actors in that affair have passed away, I need not mention the name of the man who really did give the fatal order to the regiment.'—A. W. Ramsey, Captain.

Retired List, H. M. S. Maryville, Munro, Sept. 6, 1885.

The American barque *Jennie Harbison*, which arrived at Shanghai last week, on her way from New York called at the island of Pinglap, in the Calofo Islands, situated in 6°12' N. and 160°50' E. The *Jennie Harbison* arrived there on the 28th October. There are two British traders living on the island, and Captain Ambury learnt from them that the German man-of-war *Albatross* had been there on the 14th of the month and had posted up a large notice in the German language, but as neither of the gentlemen was acquainted with the language they could not tell what was its import. The *Albatross* went from there to Yulu, or Strong Island. About thirty or forty natives came on board the *Jennie Harbison*, and Captain Ambury describes them as having been decently dressed and of good disposition. Most of them could speak a little English and professed the Christian religion, there being a native Christian missionary on the island. Several of them spoke of Dr. Gulick, who seems to be held in very affectionate remembrance amongst them.—N.-O. D. News.

'FRAGRANT WATERS' MURMUR

That the members of the Banquet Committee are not on a bad of roses, and that they are beginning to feel their position. That it is almost impossible to push a heavy weight up a perpendicular hill. That the first mistake was made when the Governor asked for a public banquet. That the second blunder was made when his friends set themselves to conform to H.E.'s wish. That the third and crowning blunder will be the holding of the banquet. That the farwell Address at the Council meeting will not inspire the Banquet Committee with confidence. That the friends of H. E. the Governor would have done well to have thwarted his desire, and nipped the so-called public demonstration in the bud.

That the whisky was the 'real Mackay.' That the champagne was good, and that the toddy was like unto nectar. That the Scotch element was carefully put forward as the ruling spirit of the Ball, in decoration and dance, and that therefore the assembly was the most successful ever held here. That there will be more kilts next year—the more the merrier.

That some more of the Scotch Taisans might follow the example set by the 'burly' President of the H. S. A. S. That the committee will hope for increased efficiency in the Police force, now that the tax is again fixed at the present high figure. That a general levy of 8 1/2 per cent. all over might prevent grumbling. That the Rupert of Debate complains that he can get no seconder in these desperate days.

That things are going more smoothly at the Magistracy, and that fewer cases are being sent back than formerly. That it is to be hoped that the Police would against offending sampans which swarm around incoming steamers is a prelude to a better state of affairs in this Harbour.

That the Tai-tan murder case has baffled our detectives, and that we may look for many more of such dark tragedies. That the Exhibition Committee did well in setting their face against the little scheme of a premature and incomplete local exhibition in order to meet the desires of the Governor and the local Secretary.

That the Colony will be overrun with bad characters if this premium for catching deportees continues to be paid. That the Victoria Gaol, even under the amended rules, is not a terror to the hardened criminal. That the raitan on the breach is the only effectual deterrent of professional crime.

That short shift has been shown to some of the *Greyhound* pirates, and that it is hoped the whole nest of them will meet with their well-merited punishment. That the British fleet seems to have passed over the pirate-hunting business to the Chinese gunboats.

That the state of our Navy is said to be still lamentable enough; that short-handed ships, obsolete guns, and torpedo boats without gear, do not get righted; and that the cheese-paring policy, which has almost ruined the finest service the world has ever seen, still continues.

That nothing but a complete exposure will awaken the country. That should the Liberal Government return to power, the exposed will be made by the Conservative opposition. That the Conservatives will probably do their best for the Navy if they continue to hold office.

That any repetition of the state of affairs here during the last years will be followed by some astounding revelations. That the gallant Admiral Dowell was in no way to blame, and that the Commodore here was equally blameless.

That the Home Authorities who limit supplies, neglect warnings, and create disgust amongst all ranks, are the real culprits. That we would have been in a nice pickle in Hongkong if we had been declared, and the state of our torpedo defences had got wind—with no heavy guns here, and the fleet at Port Hamilton.

That experience ought to teach fools in high quarters. That rock-blasting has become so common in this Colony that, unless more care and caution be enforced, especially upon Chinese, some serious accidents will soon happen.

That the Steam Dredger continues to do good work, but that the unsavoury business will be a long job.

BROWNIE

HONGKONG SKETCHING CLUB.

The above club held its twenty-fourth exhibition in St. Andrew's Hall yesterday afternoon (4th inst.), and, as usual, a large number of friends responded to the Hon. Secretary's invitation to view the members' work. As a whole, the exhibit was a fairly average one, although the falling off in oils, both in point of number and merit, was noticeable. To compensate for this weakness, the show of water colours was good, and several of the sketches deserve commendation. The following numbers are worthy of special mention:—

No. 2.—'A Portrait.'—This artist, who has already attained to a high degree of skill, displays in this example a steady advancement in portraiture, and the flesh tones are purer and more delicate than any he has shown in previous works of this kind. The subject has evidently been a labour of love, and the result is certainly satisfactory.

Nos. 30 and 35 are carefully finished studies by the same member. 'View at Tytan' is simply lovely, the aerial tones being very happily rendered. 'View on Bonham Road' is a very faithful rendering of one of the innumerable vistas which abound in the locality named; the foliage is elaborated in a masterly manner.

No. 7.—'A Corner of our Garden, Pokfulam'—is the most ambitious subject yet attempted by this lay member. No. 13.—Another 'View on the Bonham Road,' is capital in colour; but, if a hypercriticism be admissible, the sky is somewhat lacking in clearness and warmth.

No. 11.—'A Portrait,' by the same member—is not equal in execution to her former efforts, but probably the canvas is to be returned to this canal for further sittings.

Nos. 12 and 14 are contributions of a new member, who is evidently no tyro in art, and we look with interest for her treatment of local subjects.

Nos. 18 and 38 are both meritorious productions. 'A Reminiscence of the Peak,' no one who has climbed the hill sides needs to be told that the wild Camelia is the blossom depicted. The subject is treated with strength and freedom, and is excellent in drawing and colour. 'Still Life' is a good composition, and Ohylong himself would commend the ginger-jar.

Nos. 19, 26, 34, and 39 figure in the Catalogue under the name of the Hon. Secretary, and the Club is to be congratulated upon the accession to its ranks of so skillful a member. 'Study of Hills, Stanley Gap,' is more than that.

Nos. 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 32, and 33 are all delicious in colour, and remarkable for freshness and breadth. This artist is evidently industrious; and the crispness and clean colour of these sketches indicate that he is a rapid worker. His style cannot be too highly recommended to the attention of other members.

Nos. 29, 35 and 37 are faithful in drawing, and the 'Wreck of the *Glenfin*' sustains this member's reputation as one of the strongest exhibitors.

No. 27, a 'View at Pakhoi,' is commendable. Nos. 29 and 31 bear the name of a member who undoubtedly possesses talent, and we are glad to again see his work after a long interval. The sketches in the Lyceum moon Pass are good, if not positive enough in colour.

Several of the old contributors, whose names have long been prominent in the Club's Catalogues, have ceased to exhibit, but the recent accession of new associates promises to fill up the gap, and the Club will doubtless retain its full vigour.

Ten and cakes were served to the ladies, and we have to thank the Hon. Secretary and members for a pleasant half-hour.

CRICKET.

IRELAND versus THE WORLD.
This match was continued yesterday. When the stumps were drawn yesterday the sons of Erin had finished their first innings for 144 runs, and the representatives of the World, who began their innings rather late in the day, just as dusk was closing in, had the bad luck to lose four wickets for two runs only and the score stood at 49 and 19 for four wickets, with Wilson and Lloyd not out. On resuming play this morning these two again handled the willow. Wilson made a capital stand and had been well supported the game might have been wrested from the victors, but ill-luck still seemed to attend the efforts of the World. Wilson was bowled by Dawson, who was in fine form, for 40, and after that no steady stand was maintained. Davies succeeded in knocking up 10 and Leach was unfortunately run out after he had scored 7. Whyte carried off his bat with 7 to his credit, the total for the innings being 71.

The Irish team did not succeed in making so good a score in their second innings to-day as they did in their first yesterday. Travers, after making 28, played one into Christian's hand; Dawson and Scanlan scored 17 and 11, respectively, and the innings was finished for 93, thus leaving the World 167 to get to win.

This task it was evidently impossible to do in the time before them, but a capital

start was made, and had time allowed it is very possible the representatives of the Sister Isle would not have carried off their laurels. Leach and Pearson opened the ball and played steadily, the former, in particular, a splendid game, and at sundown had put together 68, towards the required 167 without the loss of a wicket. The match was, however, decided on the first innings, which was won by Ireland by 73 runs.

During the afternoon the Band of the Northamptonshire Regiment performed upon the Ground, which was visited by a number of spectators, amongst whom was H. E. Sir George Bowen.

THE FOLLOWING ARE TO-DAY'S SCORES:—

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Extras.....	Total.....	05
THE WORLD.		
SECOND INNINGS.		
A. J. Leach, not out.....		4
Capt. Pearson, not out.....		10
G. Trimble.....		
C. S. Barr.....		
M. B. Graham.....		
F. H. O. Wilson.....		
A. A. Lloyd.....		
F. H. Wrayte.....		
A. H. Christian.....	to bat.	

(Smith, Elder & Co.)

Guides.

4. Sums not exceeding \$50 may be remitted through the Ports of China by means of Postage Stamps, subject to a charge of one per cent for cashing them; or Money Orders can be granted at Hong Kong or Shanghai and Port, where there are Agencies of the Hongkong Post Office.

Small remittances can be made to those places by means of Postal Notes. See separate notice on the *Postage Office*.

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